(c) in how many trains walkie-talkie sets have been introduced; and

(d) by when the Ministry is going to install the same in the remaining trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The old Zonal and Divisional Railway Headquarters, have been provided with satellite phones. The newly formed Zones & Divisions have initiated the procurement action and satellite phones will also be provided in new Zonal & Divisional Headquarters soon.

(b) to (d) Railways proposal was to give 5 Watt walkie-talkie sets to Drivers & Guards. These have since been provided to the Drivers and Guards of all trains.

Introduction of new trains

1437. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY:
SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:
SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have already introduced fifty new trains, so far, during this year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that more such trains with provision for luxurious travel are likely to come up in the near future;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) steps taken/proposed to be taken to address the concerns of railway safety before the introduction of so many additional trains which would put mounting pressure on an already overburdended system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Introduction of new trains is an ongoing process. Trains are introduced on the basis of traffic justification, operational

feasibility and availability of resources. The type of new service *viz.* Rajdhani, Shatabadi, Mail/Express and class of travel provided in new services is also dependent on travel demand on specific routes.

(d) As normally trains are introduced on sections where the passenger trains are already running and are certified fit for passenger services, the introduction of new services does not affect safety. In order to cater to growth in traffic, various works for augmenting line and terminal capacity are planned on saturated sectors. Before introduction of a new service availability of adequate maintenance, infrastructure and resources is also ensured.

Failure to provide safety to passengers

†1438. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have miserably failed to provide comprehensive safety to the railway passengers;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government intend to provide safe rail journey to railway passengers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir. As a result of concerted efforts on the part of Indian Railways, the number of consequential train accidents has come down from 473 in 2000-01 to 414 in 2001-2, and further down to 351 in 2002-03*. This downward trend has continued in the current year as well, with 85* consequential train accidents taking place during the period April-June 2003, as compared to 103* in the same period last year. (*Provisional figures).

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Ensuring a safe rail journey and preventing rail accident is the prime concern of Indian Railways and consistent efforts are being made in this direction. Some of these measures are as under:—

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.